

Open Ranks

By Staff Sgt. Jim Fisher
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Three days after the attacks on America, in a memo dated Sept. 14, the President declared a national state of emergency by reason of terrorist attacks and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

The memo went on to say that our lives, along with operational capability and resources, will remain in danger for an indefinite period. This includes every member of our military family.

It seems this important communication hasn't made it home to our families.

So when our wives, husbands, children (or maybe the parents back home) are queried about their loved one on active duty, the information on deployments and operations seems to just flow.

Recent experience in local media relations efforts confirms this. We recently got a call from the spouse of a deployed member who had agreed to a TV news interview. While the interview itself was harmless, the spouse divulged sensitive information to the reporter "off the record." In the interest of security and patriotism, the news crew cancelled the story. Further investigation revealed that her husband hadn't passed on any of the information security stipulations he'd been given.

While there was a happy ending, the security of our servicemembers could have been jeopardized.

Simply put, people are talking about stuff they shouldn't. We are operating in a very different environment than we were even two months ago, and topics that used to be open for discussion must now be kept very close-hold.

The aforementioned memo stipulates that we "exercise great caution in discussing any information related to DoD work."

Though unclassified, much of the information that might have been released to the public in the past must now be withheld because of its sensitivity.

What most DoD employees do at work is now privileged information. If your spouse deploys, the date, location, length and nature of the deployment should not be discussed with anyone.

While the anxiety and difficulties that come with being a member of the military family are especially tough these days, we must do what we can to protect ourselves by safeguarding information.

Arctic Life

Great Living in the Great Land

CFC kicks off Monday

Elmendorf strives for 40 percent base participation rate

By Senior Airman Connie L. Bias
3rd Wing Public Affairs

As the "giving season" approaches, Elmendorf people can get an early start on helping others through the Combined Federal Campaign.

The CFC is an annual fund-raising campaign for federal employees. It's the only authorized solicitation of federal employees at work on behalf of charitable organizations, and includes international, national and local charities.

Elmendorf's CFC begins Monday and runs through Dec. 14. People wishing to donate funds to the campaign can fill out a pledge card, available through their unit representative. Donors can choose from about 1,500 charities.

"A dollar is the minimum amount you can donate," said 1st Lt. William Jelks, 3rd Wing CFC project officer. "You can donate with cash, check or payroll deduction, which is the most popular method. A person might not be able to write a check or pull out \$200, but they can spread that



amount throughout the entire year."

Elmendorf's goal this year is \$310,000, and Jelks is hoping for a 40 percent participation rate from base personnel.

"Usually we get 25 to 28 percent of the base population to participate," said Jelks. "Last year we beat that, and passed our monetary goal. We started out trying to raise \$300,000, and ended up pulling in more than \$340,000."

This year, donors can make pledges to the terrorist attack relief efforts in New York and at the Pentagon. Local charities in Anchorage are also on the donation list.

For more information or to donate, contact your unit's CFC representative.

CCAF — earn at work

By Arthur E. Dunn
982nd Training Group

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas —

The average maintenance troop may be a few credits away from an associate's degree and not even know it.

The typical senior airman through technical sergeant maintenance troop is surprisingly close to a degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Sixty-four semester hours are required for a CCAF degree, and the normal maintenance training cycle satisfies most of those hours. Many of the credits are filled through mandatory training activities; physical education requirements are met in basic training, for example. Technical credits are filled through maintenance and upgrade training courses, and management credits are satisfied by professional military education.

Maintenance troops receive more technical credits than they need for the technical portion of the CCAF degree through Field Training Detachment and upgrade training. Only 24 technical credits are required for the associate's degree, and once a troop satisfies that requirement through career field training, excess credits can be applied toward the

CCAF's 15 semester-hour program elective requirement.

More than 40 percent of recruits say they are interested in the Air Force for its education benefits and opportunities, and 97 percent of enlistees indicate education as a key goal.

Elmendorf's Education Center, in conjunction with local colleges, offers classes and credit opportunities through night and weekend classes, computer-based or internet courses, and testing sessions offered through nationally recognized programs like the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). More than 70 percent of April 2001 CCAF graduates applied testing credit toward their degree requirements.

A visit to the education office will determine how many credits a person has and how many are still needed for a degree. An education counselor can offer ways to obtain additional credits and finish a degree.

For information on Education Center classes and testing schedules, or to talk to an education counselor, call 552-3164.

For more information on Elmendorf's field training courses, contact Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Dziedzic at 552-5626.

CFC unit reps

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3 AMDS, Capt. Jeff Graviet, 580-1134
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19 FS, 1st Lt. Chris Augustin, 552-3323
12 FS, Senior Airman Adriane Flores, 552-3457 or 0448
90 FS, Master Sgt. Pat Peterson, 552-9046
517 AS, Airman 1st Class Richard Jones, 551-0714 or 0738
962 AACS, 1st Lt. Elizabeth Hartz, 552-9130
3 LG/LSS, Staff Sgt. Trojan Smith, 552-8960
3 EMS, Master Sgt. Alan Szewczyk, 552-7857
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